

Serial No. 09/925,021

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 19-22 are pending. Claims 5, 6, and 11-18 have been canceled. Claims 1-4, 7-10, 21 and 22 have been allowed. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to a lack of antecedent basis for "support substrate." Claim 18 has been canceled, and claims 19 and 20 have been amended to change support substrate" to "frame member" as suggested in paragraph 2 of the office action. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. Claims 11 and 13 have been canceled, thus this rejection will not be discussed.

Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(f) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art of Fig. 1. Claims 11-13 have been canceled, and this rejection will thus not be discussed.

Claims 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(f) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art of Fig. 1. Claims 14, 16 and 17 have been canceled, and this rejection will thus not be discussed.

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the patent to Sakai et al. ('031). Claims 11-18 have been canceled. However, the applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to claims 19 and 20 for the following reasons.

Claims 19 and 20 cover the second embodiment, which is illustrated in Fig. 9A of the present application. The subject matter of claims 19 and 20 is described on page 29, lines 10-21, of the specification. Claim 19 recites, among other things, the following:

"wherein a difference between a first width and a second width of the frame member is 15% or less of a shorter of the first width or the second width"

This feature is not shown by the patent to Sakai et al. (Sakai). The patent to Sakai shows a frame member 5 in Fig. 1. However, the upper part of the frame member 5 is significantly and noticeably smaller than the lower part of the frame member 5. In other words, the difference between the first width and the second width is far more than 15% of the width of the upper part. Further, there is no description in the specification of the Sakai patent of a frame member that has uniformity of width or that satisfies the claimed limitations.

The examiner states that "the applicant has not explained how one can form a square hole in the middle of a square frame without defining a frame having equal widths on the top and bottom portions." Although the specification of the Sakai patent states at column 8 lines 48-51 that the frame is square and the hole is square and in the middle of the frame, that text is clearly referring Figs. 1 and 2, which show that the frame is not uniform in width. It is clear that the frame and the hole are not square but are rectangular. Since the Sakai patent originated in Japan, there may be a translation error in this text, or there is simply an inaccuracy in the description. In any event, the word "middle" does not necessarily mean the geometric center. The word "middle" is often used to refer generally to a central region. Therefore, the text that appears at

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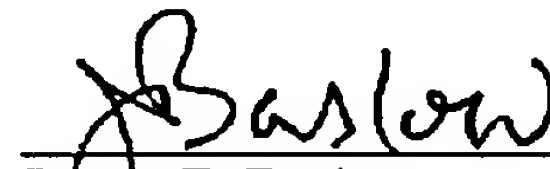
column 8 lines 48-51 does not disclose or suggest a frame member in which the difference between a first width and a second width of the frame member is 15% or less of a shorter of the first width or the second width, as recited in claim 19. Claim 20 is more limited in calling for a difference that is 10% or less of the smaller width. The applicants thus respectfully request that the rejection of claims 19 and 20 be withdrawn.

The applicants request entry of this amendment, since no new issues are raised, and this amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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